

The Holy Spirit

We come now to the assertion, “I believe in the Holy Spirit.” Here the Creed completes its Trinitarian statement of Faith. I believe in Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Discuss

Who is the Holy Spirit and what does he do?

The Holy Spirit as God’s Very Presence

In both the Hebrew OT and the Greek NT the words used to describe the Holy Spirit are the words for “wind,” “breathe,” and “spirit.” The Spirit is rightly understood as God’s very breath or God’s own Spirit. God makes himself personally available to people in the present here on planet earth through his Spirit.

1 Corinthians 3:16 – “you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in your midst.”

1 Corinthians 6:19 – “Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own.”

Discuss

What kinds of things would you expect to see if God actually did live in someone?

God’s Spirit is the experienced, empowering presence of God himself. With his presence comes peace (if God is for us who could be against?) and power (you will do even greater things than Jesus kind of power and the power to be made new).

The Work of the Spirit

Here we highlight a few key things that the Holy Spirit does in the life of the believer. The Spirit:

1. **Convicts us of our need for Jesus**

John 16:8-11 – “When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: about sin, because people do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.”

2. **Re-shapes individuals and the community to be “his people”**

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 – “May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.”

The Bible tells us that those who are living under the Spirit’s authority look a certain way.

Galatians 5:22-23 – “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.”

God’s presence allows us to be fully human the way it was intended to be – not God, but a true reflection of him in the world.

God not only reshapes individuals to be “his people,” he also builds up the entire community by his Spirit. The Spirit of God empowers his people in ways that are beyond themselves for the direct purpose of shaping a community that reflects him in the world.

Ephesians 4:1-13 – “I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ² Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³ Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace...⁷ to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it...”

“¹¹So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”

The point of spiritual gifts is that God’s own Spirit presence empowers his people in all kinds of ways to be built up and to reflect God in this world.

Pray

Pray that God’s own Spirit would fill and empower you with his peace and power. Ask where he wants you to go and who he wants you to go to as his light!